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# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## **CDF Grounds Helicopter Fleet Due to New FAA Requirement**

**Sacramento-** The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has grounded all of its firefighting helicopters until further notice due to an FAA mandate.

The Federal Aviation Administration released an Emergency Air Worthiness Directive requiring that all Huey H-1 helicopters with certain “cycle limits” on their masts be grounded and that the masts be replaced.

The CDF will comply immediately with this directive. The first two CDF helicopters inspected were beyond the FAA limits and therefore, the entire fleet (9 plus 2 back-ups) have been grounded to determine if they are within these new guidelines.

Currently, CDF aviation personnel are working around the clock to obtain replacement masts and back up aircraft. Two replacement masts have already been ordered and are expected to arrive in Sacramento Saturday July 29. That will allow the first two grounded helicopters to be returned to service on Monday July 31. A third new mast is expected to arrive Monday and will allow a third helicopter to return to service by Wednesday. Back up aircraft may be obtained through private contractors or through the military.

These helicopters are an important part of the CDF firefighting response. Every effort is being made to put them back in service as soon as possible.

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